



# Middle Beach E-Mail Newsletter

Spring 2003

*"We are committed to providing excellent public service and safety to all who live, work and play in our vibrant, tropical, historic community."*

City of Miami Beach  
Neighborhood Services  
1700 Convention Center  
Drive  
Miami Beach, FL 33139  
305-673-7580 (phone)  
305-604-2498 (fax)  
[www.miamibeachfl.gov](http://www.miamibeachfl.gov)

[Hold down the Ctrl button and Click here to send an e-mail to Neighborhood Services](#)

Call 305-673-7580/VOICE to request material in accessible format, sign language interpreter (five days in advance), or information on access for persons with disabilities.

**City Of Miami Beach**  
Information & Comments  
305-604-CITY (2489)

**Office of the Mayor and Commission**  
305-673-7030

**Office of the City Manager**  
305-673-7010

**Police (non-emergency)**  
305-673-7900  
**Fire (non-emergency)**  
305-673-7120

## Neighborhood Meeting Addresses Quality of Life Issues

Thirty five Middle Beach residents attended a neighborhood meeting held on January 27, 2003 at the Nautilus Middle High School Cafeteria. Those in attendance identified a number of concerns affecting the community's quality of life. This newsletter highlights those areas and provides important information regarding the City's programs and the community's responsibilities. Educating the community is the first step towards enhancing the quality of life in neighborhoods. The following four items were identified as neighborhood priorities:

1. Speeding enforcement on LaGorce, Pinetree, Alton, and North Bay Road.
2. The status of the Baylink project
3. Condition of the roads and sidewalks.
4. Status of bicycle paths around the neighborhood.

## Police Briefs

In January, there were 7 accidents in the Middle Beach area. The causes for these accidents were reported as follows: improper lane change; careless driving; following too close; ran red light; hit and run; and failure to yield the right of way. In February, there were no reported accidents in the area.

The Motor Squad has been in training for the past two weeks; They will concentrate on this area next week.

Police Neighborhood Resource Officer Gorny met with the owners and managers of Tremont and Beach Towing. They have advised their drivers of the complaint and that violations will be enforced. Shift commanders have been notified of the complaint, and will monitor the area.

With regard to general traffic law enforcement, in addition to the Motor Squad, Miami Beach Police Department has initiated a traffic enforcement program during the shift overlap in each

**Neighborhood  
Services**

305-673-7077

**Community  
Resource &  
Outreach**

305-673-7580

**Parks &  
Recreation**

305-673-7730

**Parking**

305-673-PARK

**City Job Hotline**

305-673-7777

**City Clerk**

305-673-7411

**Bulky Waste  
Pick-Up**

**Appointment**

305-633-2700

**24-Hour  
Services**

**Water & Sewer  
Streets**

**Sidewalks**

**Streetlights**

**Storm water**

305-673-7625

**Traffic Signals**

305-592-3580

**FPL**

(Power outages & street  
lights on wooden poles)

305-442-8770

Mayor David Dermer •  
Commissioners: Matti  
Herrera Bower, Simon Cruz,  
Luis R. Garcia, Jr., Saul  
Gross, Jose Smith and  
Richard Steinberg  
*City Manager Jorge M.  
Gonzalez • City Attorney  
Murray H. Dubbin • City  
Clerk Robert Parcher •  
Vivian P. Guzman, Director  
Neighborhood Services  
Department*

district. District Sergeants will deploy officers at trouble spots each day.

Miami Beach High has a Miami-Dade School Police Resource Officer. That officer has been advised of the concerns of area residents regarding student speeding and will work with Miami Beach Police Department in enforcement.

As a result of complaints made by residents, "Leash Law" enforcement has been stepped up. Officers have enforced this violation at Pinetree Park with warnings and citations.

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## Baylink

For those who have not yet heard of it, Baylink is a proposed mass transit system which would link South Beach with Downtown Miami and the Metrorail system.

There is controversy surrounding the project, with diverse opinions regarding its potential benefits, overall effectiveness, and impact on the community. The Baylink project is currently on hold, and the City Commission is exploring the option of hiring a consultant to examine the entire project. Check your local media sources for up to the minute updates.

## Roads and Sidewalks

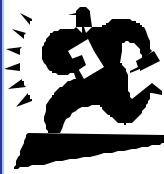
The Florida Department of Transportation is scheduled to start milling and paving Alton Road, from 43rd Street to 63rd Street / Pine Tree Drive, late this year or early next year. Prior to FDOT paving, the City of Miami Beach will address some issues with our existing water line in the north bound direction.

Residents inquired about repaving Prairie Avenue from Dade Blvd to 46 Street. This area is not currently scheduled for repaving by Public Works - only patch repairs, etc. However, the Capital Improvement Projects Office is scheduled to start a streetscape project in this area sometime in late 2004.

On another note- please be sure to keep all hedges, bushes, and limbs trimmed back from sidewalks. It is easy to forget about the sidewalk areas around your home; it is important to keep the sidewalks clear so that pedestrians won't be hindered or injured by low or overhanging tree limbs or bushes. Not only is blocking the sidewalk the sidewalk a violation, it could possibly subject the owner to a lawsuit if someone gets injured!

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## Bicycle Paths for Middle Beach



Due to the intense interest shown by Middle Beach residents, the Mayor is creating a "Blue Ribbon" or Advisory panel to work with City staff in bringing safe bicycle paths to the area.

This committee is currently being formed, and as progress is made it will be forwarded to all area residents, so stay tuned...

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## Hedges and Bushes

Currently, there are no height restrictions for bushes around residential homes. However, please be aware that bushes located in places that obscure the visibility of drivers must be trimmed back to provide safe, clear views.

Additionally, homeowners may want to carefully consider the placement, style and location of landscaping around their property for safety reasons. Large hedges and bushes that reach the ground close to your home or driveway could provide a potential hiding spot for criminals to hide in ambush.

Also, hedges that are tall and thick and "provide privacy" also provide "privacy" for burglars trying to break into your home. Police on routine patrol and your neighbors won't be able to see if someone is trying to break into your house. Large bushes and trees can also block security and street lights, making your yard dark and attractive to burglars.

The City of Miami Beach Police Department offers free home security surveys to our residents. Call the Police non-emergency number at 305-673-7900 for more information.

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## Answer Center

The City Miami Beach Neighborhood Services Department Answer Center is the easiest way to contact City Hall. Friendly, professional, bilingual operators will be happy to assist you with information and referral, comments and service requests. The state-of-the-art customer tracking system will then direct your request to the exact person who can handle the issue and tracks the request electronically until it is resolved.

Powered by a Customer Relationship Management system, it handles citizen inquiries and service requests by providing fast and accurate logging of information, on-line assignment and dispatching and step-by-step tracking of resolution activities. Miami Beach residents now have access to City Hall 24-hours a day and 7 days a week.

To connect to this new service, **Hold the CNTRL button down and click on this link:** [Answer Center](http://miamibeachfl.gov/newcity/neighborhoods/answer_center.asp)  
([http://miamibeachfl.gov/newcity/neighborhoods/answer\\_center.asp](http://miamibeachfl.gov/newcity/neighborhoods/answer_center.asp))